

# State of Rhode Island Hazard Specific Annex: Extreme Heat

*June 2019*



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## Promulgation Statement

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Transmitted herewith is the State of Rhode Island *Hazard Specific Annex: Extreme Heat*. This plan supplements the “Natural Hazards” portion of the CEMP.

The “*Extreme Heat*” Annex provides detailed information for RIEMA communications, alert & warning and notification systems necessary for efficient preparation for, response to and recovery from emergencies/disasters. This Annex also covers all emergency systems and provides a means to determine the appropriate redundant system and provide alternative means of notification in case of failure in primary system(s).

In my capacity as Director of the Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency (RIEMA), I hereby promulgate and issue the State of Rhode Island *Hazard Specific Annex: Extreme Heat* as the official guidance for operations within the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC).

This plan has been developed in accordance with guidance standards set forth in the Emergency Management Accreditation Program (EMAP) and the State’s Emergency Management Program.

### ***The Hazard Specific Annex: Extreme Heat***

**The Hazardous Weather Operations Plan** has been approved for implementation by:

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Marc R. Pappas  
Director, RIEMA

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Date

## Record of Changes

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Change Number	Section	Date of Change	Individual Making Change	Description of Change

## Record of Distribution

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Date of Delivery	Number of Copies Delivered	Method of Delivery	Name, Title, and Agency/Organization of Receiver
	1	.pdf/email	RIEMA Operations Section Chief
	1	.pdf/email	RIEMA Operations Support Branch Chief
	1	.pdf/email	RIEMA SEOC
	1	.pdf/email	NWSO Taunton, MA

# 1.0 Introduction

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## 1.1 Purpose

The purpose of this Annex is to provide detailed information on RIEMA communications, alert & warning, notification systems necessary in preparation for, response to and recovery from the effects of Extreme Heat.

## 1.2 Scope

The *Hazard Specific Annex: Extreme Heat* only applies to RIEMA and is designed for use by those specific RIEMA employees assigned to the SEOC and/or with responsibilities to conduct emergency alert & warning and notification to the public.

## 1.3 Goals and Objectives

The following objectives are the focus the *Hazard Specific Annex: Extreme Heat*:

- Protect the residents of Rhode Island from the effects of *Extreme Heat*;
- To ensure an effective, flexible and redundant communications, alert & warning, and notification systems during an *Extreme Heat* event;
- To ensure the emergency communication systems are able to disseminate time-critical notifications, warning and information to residents, public safety officials and key community partners;
- To establish the procedures for reporting to the local National Weather Service Office in real-time;
- To review the SEOC Activation Procedures, and
- To review Alert & Warning System(s) Activation Criteria.

## 1.4 Relationship to the Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan

This *Annex* complies with the requirements of the Rhode Island Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP). Users of this document are expected to be familiar with the CEMP.

## 1.5 Authority

Authority for Emergency Communication efforts in the State of Rhode Island generally can be found in:

### **Federal**

- Federal Directives and Organizational Plans
- Public Law
- Federal Regulations

## State

- Rhode Island State statutes
  - RIGL 30-15-43 Statewide interoperable communications system
- Rhode Island Directives & Organizational Plans

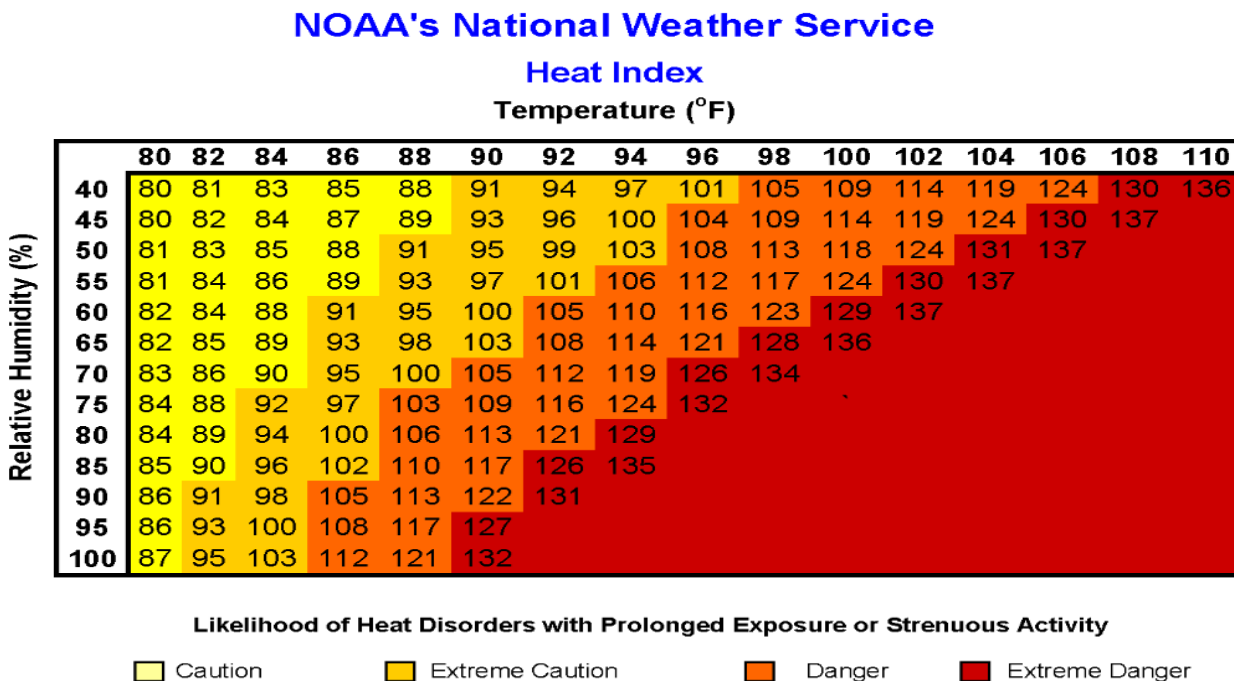
## 1.6 Logistics Support & Resource Requirements

RIEMA will coordinate logistical support and resource requirements necessary to implement and track the State's Emergency Management plans.

# 2.0 Situation and Assumptions

## 2.1 Situation

Extreme heat conditions are defined by summertime weather that is substantially hotter and/or more humid than average for a location at that time of year. In Rhode Island, when the outside temperature goes above 90 degrees for three (3) or more days, it is a heat wave. Hot temperatures and extreme heat can occur and last for any amount of time, which can vary from one day to several weeks. This definition for extreme heat may be refined to read: summertime temperatures that hover 10 degrees or more above the average high temperature for the region for any amount of time. The Heat Index (HI) or the "Apparent Temperature" is an accurate measure of how hot it really feels when the Relative Humidity (RH) is added to the actual air temperature. The HI may be used to help determine when an extreme heat event is occurring. Heat alert procedures from the NWS are based mainly on HI values.



## 2.2 Assumptions

Extreme heat events may impact the entire State of Rhode Island. Rhode Islander's that live away from the coast in Kent, Providence, and Washington counties are at greater risk for extreme heat as metropolitan areas, the interior north, and other areas not on the coast experience high temperatures.

Specifically, within these counties, locations of high concentrations of the following at-risk populations are particularly sensitive to extreme heat which make them more susceptible to heat-induced illnesses and the impacts of extreme heat events:

- Older adults, children, and sick or overweight individuals/persons with disabilities
- Athletes/Outdoor workers
- People of low socio-economic status/homeless
- People under the influence of drugs or alcohol
- People living in urban areas
- Pets/livestock

In the State of Rhode Island, trends indicate that deaths and emergency department visits are significantly higher on days with hot weather, even on days with a heat index below the current advisory threshold. For example, the risk of death for all causes is ~7% higher on days when the heat index is 95°F as compared to 75°F. Similarly, a day with a heat index of 95°F as compared to 75°F was associated with a cumulative 7.5% and 5.1% higher rate of all-cause emergency department visits, respectively.

## 3.0 Execution

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Communication is often one of the first resources lost in a large scale emergency or disaster, yet it is one of the most important. Communication is of paramount importance on several levels – for emergency responders to communicate with each other and the SEOC, and for public safety officials to get information and instructions out to the public.

It is essential for the State of Rhode Island to have reliable communications for day-to-day operations, warning capabilities, response and recovery efforts, and coordination with other organizations.

### 3.1 Concept of Operations

The *Hazard Specific Annex: Extreme Heat* outlines the formal written procedures to ensure designated emergency management personnel are familiar with and the effective operation of the systems and capabilities of Communications, Notification, Alert & Warning, and other Critical Support Systems for the timely and efficient dissemination of emergency messaging in preparation for, response to and recovery from *Extreme Heat* emergencies.

- **Excessive Heat Warning**—An Excessive Heat Warning is issued within 12 hours of the onset of extremely dangerous heat conditions. The general rule of thumb for this Warning is when the maximum heat index temperature is expected to be 105° or



higher for at least 2 days and night time air temperatures will not drop below 75°; however, these criteria vary across the country, especially for areas not used to extreme heat conditions. If you don't take precautions immediately when conditions are extreme, you may become seriously ill or even die.

- **Excessive Heat Watches**—Heat watches are issued when conditions are favorable for an excessive heat event in the next 24 to 72 hours. A Watch is used when the risk of a heat wave has increased but its occurrence and timing is still uncertain.
- **Heat Advisory**—A Heat Advisory is issued within 12 hours of the onset of extremely dangerous heat conditions. The general rule of thumb for this Advisory is when the maximum heat index temperature is expected to be 100° or higher for at least 2 days, and night time air temperatures will not drop below 75°; however, these criteria vary across the country, especially for areas that are not used to dangerous heat conditions. Take precautions to avoid heat illness. If you don't take precautions, you may become seriously ill or even die.

The *Hazard Specific Annex: Extreme Heat* provides the following detailed information:

#### **Phases of *Extreme Heat* Emergency Response:**

The most appropriate level of response to a heat emergency in Rhode Island will be carried out by RIEMA using the thresholds and phases outlined below. If additional assistance is needed, the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) may be partially or fully activated, as necessary, in support of the response efforts.

- **Air Quality Alert:** The Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (DEM) issues Air Quality Alerts whenever unhealthy levels of ozone or fine particulates are forecast. RIEMA will assist, as necessary, with any mitigation/response efforts. Air quality data and air quality forecasts can be found on the DEM website at: <http://www.dem.ri.gov/programs/air/air-quality-forecast.php>
- **Phase 1 –Readiness: Excessive Heat Watches;** RIEMA will monitor NWS weather forecasts. When Excessive Heat Warnings are issued by the NWS in Taunton, RIEMA will inform Emergency Support Function (ESF) 8 Health and Medical through the EOHHS Secretary that a Heat Advisory/Excessive Heat Warning/Heat Wave has been issued and the following actions will be taken:
  - EOHHS Secretary will inform the Department of Health (RIDOH) Director of the advisory.
  - RIEMA will collaborate with the RIDOH to determine the readiness and availability of resources, including pre-determined cooling centers and/or cooling stations, e.g. senior centers, community centers, shopping malls, churches, ice skating rinks.
  - RIDOH will review criteria for cooling facilities that consider accommodations for pets and possible 24-hour operations.
  - RIEMA will notify the Local Emergency Management Directors (EMDs) to identify vulnerable populations in their cities/towns and determine where relief efforts need to be focused to protect those most at risk.

- RIDOH will ensure that plans for dealing with vulnerable populations are in place.
- The RIEMA External Affairs will ensure that the Excessive Heat Fact Sheet has current information, and is posted on RIEMA website, in multiple languages.
- RIEMA External Affairs in coordination with RIDOH PIO will issue messaging (RIEMA website/Twitter/Facebook etc.) and press releases to increase awareness of the risk from heat, i.e. heat cramps, heat exhaustion and heat stroke, for vulnerable populations and the public.
- RIEMA External Affairs will revise the Public Inquiry script, if needed, and forward to United Way 211 phone center.

The NWS routinely holds conference calls with RIEMA so that State officials can be prepared before an announcement is made to the public.

• **Phase 2 – Excessive Heat Warning** - If the NWS issues (see definition), RIEMA will inform ESF 8 Health and Medical through the RIDOH Director (or designee) that a Heat Alert has been issued and the following actions will be taken:

- RIEMA may partially or fully activate the SEOC, if necessary.
- RIEMA will create an incident on WebEOC, if not already done.
- EOHHS Secretary will inform the RIDOH Director of the alert.
- RIDOH will contact the Medical Examiner's Office to ensure they are prepared to address fatality management issues.
- RIDOH may remotely activate or send ESF 6-Mass Care and Housing and ESF 8-Health to representatives to the SEOC.
- RIDOH will schedule conference call(s) with EOHHS and ESF Partners to provide updated information and to determine readiness in areas expected to be most affected.
- ESF 6 will provide information updates to the RIDOH/SEOC and coordinate cooling center activations with local EMD's, the American Red Cross (ARC) and private organizations.
- Local Emergency Management Director's (EMD) will open pre-identified cooling centers in the affected areas and reach out to vulnerable populations previously identified.
- ESF 6 will ensure cooling center information is entered into WebEOC and status information is up-to-date including daily number of individuals utilizing facility and needs.
- ESF 8 at the SEOC will provide information updates to the RIDOH and coordinate medical and personnel resources with appropriate ESF's.
- RIDOH will communicate with:
  - Department of Elderly Affairs (DEA) to ensure safety of protected populations.
  - Division for Children, Youth and Families (DCYF) to ensure safety of adoption/foster children and families and child daycare facilities.
  - Healthcare Facilities to advise all nursing homes/residential care facilities to monitor residents closely for signs of heat related illnesses. If facility is not equipped with air conditioning, suggest acquiring one so residents can stay where they are most familiar.
  - Home Care/Home Hospice Association to advise home-based care agencies to visit/contact patients to assess their need to leave their home and notify local first responders (police/fire/EMS) about their location and special needs.

- o Hospital Association of RI (HARI) to consider activating the RIDOH Alternate Care Plan to handle any anticipated heat related illnesses across the state to free-up the hospitals for more critical-care cases.
- RIDOH & RIEMA External Affairs will issue a revised press release as the situation warrants.
- RIDOH & RIEMA External Affairs will post cooling center locations on the RIEMA & RIDOH website's/Twitter/Facebook and update the United Way 211 phone center.
- RIDOH & RIEMA External Affairs will revise the Public Inquiry script, if needed, and forward to United Way 211 phone center.
  
- **Phase 3 - Heat Advisory** - If the NWS issues an Excessive Heat Advisory, RIEMA will inform ESF 8 at the SEOC (if open) or through the RIDOH Director (or designee) that a Heat Emergency has been issued and the following actions will be taken:
  - Continue actions listed under Phase 2.
  - Consider posting notices in grocery stores, hospitals, community centers, doctors' offices, homeless shelters, etc.;
  - Consider the recommendation for cancellation of government sponsored and/or outside school sponsored sporting events with advisories given to those participating in outdoor activities;
  - Ensure that plans for dealing with vulnerable populations remain in place;
  - RIDOH PIO and RIEMA External Affairs will release to the press locations of open cooling stations;
  - RIDOH PIO and RIEMA External Affairs will revise the Public Inquiry script, if needed, and forward to United Way 211 phone center;
  - **Other Response Considerations:**
    - Conduct Well Being Checks
    - Implement Life Essential Supply Missions
  
- **Phase 4 – Recovery** - When the NWS is no longer issuing heat advisories or warnings, and temperatures and heat indices have returned to normal, the following actions will be taken:
  - Local EMD's will systematically close cooling centers
  - SEOC will schedule a conference call with EOHHS, RIDOH and ESF Partners for discussion on what went well and what improvements are needed for future heat emergencies.
  - After Action Report will be written by RIEMA (if activated) or RIDOH.

### 3.2 Hazards

This plan is focused on natural hazards; these hazards include: Extreme Heat. All hazards listed in the *Hazard Specific Annex: Extreme Heat* are consistent with the State of Rhode Island Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (HIRA) outlined in Table 1.

**Table 1: Hazard Identification and Hazard Groupings**

Natural Hazards	Human-Caused Hazards	Technological Hazards
Severe Winter Weather Ice Storm Snow	Cybersecurity Incident	Infrastructure Failure Communications Emergency Services Energy Information Technology Transportation Systems Water and Wastewater Systems
Flood Riverine Coastal Flash Urban	Chemical Incident	
High Wind	Terrorism Foreign and Domestic	
Extreme Heat	Biological Incident	
Hurricane and Tropical Storms Nor'easter Storm Surge	Radiological Incident	
Extreme Cold	Civil Unrest	
Thunderstorm Hail Lightning		
Dam Failure		
Fire Urban Wild		
Sea Level Rise		
Epidemic		
Drought		
Earthquake		
Tornado		

### 3.3 Alert & Warning Procedures

#### Alert & Warning Procedures/Criteria

- Procedures to initiate, receive, and/or relay notifications to alert key decision-makers and emergency personnel;
- Procedures to disseminate emergency alerts and warnings to the public potentially impacted by an actual or impending emergency;
- Procedures to disseminate alerts and warnings to vulnerable populations;
- Procedures to clearly delineate any decision-making processes or triggering events; and

- State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC)
  - SEOC Activation Levels; and
  - SEOC Activation Procedures.
- Systems Overview

### 3.3.1 Interoperable and Redundant Systems Default Matrix (Plan A-B-C)

**Table 2: Interoperable and Redundant Systems Default Matrix**  
**Interoperable and Redundant Systems Default Matrix (Plan A-B-C)**

Action	-A- Primary System	-B- Secondary System	-C- Tertiary System	Authorized User	Notes
<b>Communication</b>	RISCON (800 MHz)	EMSTARS (VHF)	RESCQ (Satellite) or other compatible satellite system	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as A&amp;W</li> </ul>	Procedures Located in Communications System Support Annex (CCSA) Volume 1.  EMSTARS is available for use by internal, subordinate and emergency personnel only.
<b>Notification</b>	E-Mail	Phone	CodeRED	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as A&amp;W</li> </ul>	Procedures Located in CSSA, Volume 2.
<b>Alert &amp; Warning</b>	CodeRED	EAS		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Director</li> <li>• Administrative Executive Officer</li> <li>• Operations Section Chief</li> <li>• RIEMA Duty Officer</li> <li>• State Warning Officer</li> </ul>	Procedures Located in CSSA, Volume 3.

<b>Vulnerable Populations</b>	RISNER	CodeRED	Phone	• Same as A&W	Procedures Located in CSSA Volume 3.
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### 3.3.2 Procedures to Initiate, Receive, and/or Relay Notifications to Alert Key Decision-Makers and Emergency Personnel

Primary and Alternate Methods. Notification methods and authorized users are identified in paragraph 3.3.1, *Interoperable and Redundant Systems Default Matrix (Plan A-B-C)* and in *Section 8.0, Command & Control*.

Notifying Internal Personnel. The primary method the State will use to notify internal personnel is the *Microsoft Office 365 e-mail services*. The secondary method the State will use to notify internal personnel is *telephone (landline or cellular)*. Internal personnel in this context includes RIEMA staff and special and volunteer teams.

### 3.3.3 Procedures to Disseminate Emergency Alerts and Warnings to the Public Potentially Impacted by an Actual or Impending Emergency

Alerting the Public. The primary method the State will use to alert the public (to include vulnerable populations) is the *CodeRED Mass Notification System*. The secondary method the State will use to alert the public (to include vulnerable populations) is the federal *Emergency Alert System (EAS)*.

Alerting Emergency Personnel. The primary method the State will use to alert emergency personnel is the *CodeRED Mass Notification System*. The secondary method the State will use to alert emergency personnel is the federal *Emergency Alert System (EAS)*. Emergency personnel in this context includes, local emergency management directors, special and volunteer teams, RIEMA staff assigned to the SEOC and Emergency Support Function (ESF) Staff assigned to the SEOC.

### 3.3.4 Procedures to Disseminate Alerts and Warnings to Vulnerable Populations

Alerting Vulnerable Populations. The primary method the State will use to alert vulnerable populations is the *CodeRED Mass Notification System*. The secondary method the State will use to alert vulnerable populations is the email distribution list derived from the *Rhode Island Special Needs Emergency Registry (RISNER)*.

### 3.3.5 Procedures to Clearly Delineate any Decision-Making Processes or Triggering Events

Alerting Key Decision-Makers. The primary document that describes the method, processes and triggering (threshold) events is the *Statewide Emergency Notification Policy*.

### 3.3.6 Alert & Warning System(s) Activation Criteria

Alert & Warning System(s) Activation Criteria						
Hazards	Severe Winter Weather (Ice & Snow)	Flooding (Riverine, Coastal, Flash & Urban)	High Wind	Extreme Heat & Cold	Hurricane and Tropical Storms (Nor'easter & Storm Surge)	Thunderstorms (Hail & Lightning)
NWS Watches, Warnings & Advisories	-Watch -Warning	-Flash Flood -Flood Watch -Flood Warning	-High Wind Warning	-Excessive Heat -Wind Chill Warn	-Hurricane Watch -Hurricane Warning -Tropical Storm Watch -Tropical Storm Warning	-Watch -Warning
Alert & Warning and Notification Systems						
CodeRED (Primary)	D	M (Flash Flood)  D (All Others)	D	D	M (Warning)  D (Watch)	M (Warning)  D (Watch)
EAS (Alternate)	D	M (Flash Flood)  D (All Others)	D	D	M (Warning)  D (Watch)	M (Warning)  D (Watch)
WebEOC (Posted)	P	P	P	P	P	P
E-mail (EM Stakeholders)	B	B	B	B	B	B
Social Media (Twitter & Facebook)	P	P	P	P	P	P

RIEMA Website	P	P	P	P	P	P
<b>Legend</b>	<b>M</b> = Mandatory Alert <sup>1</sup> <b>D</b> = Discretionary Alert <sup>1</sup> <sup>1</sup> All Alerts issued via CodeRED and/or EAS approved by Authority listed in Table 2.		<b>P</b> = Mandatory Post <b>B</b> = Discretionary E-mail Blast <sup>2</sup> <sup>2</sup> Typically issued by RIEMA Director; E-mail Blast based on various factors.			

### 3.4 State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC)

#### 3.4.1 SEOC Activation Levels

The SEOC has designated three emergency levels that increase in intensity, ranging from modest emergency effects associated with monitoring, to catastrophic emergency effects associated with full activation. Emergency designation levels are critical to providing a consistent understanding for incident severity and associated response actions. Definitions for the SEOC Activation Levels are depicted in the following table, as well as the specific activation staffing requirements that are to be implemented.

**Table 3: SEOC Activation Levels**

Activation Level	Definition	Alert and Warning Notifications
<b>Level 1 – Full Activation</b>	<p><b>ALL primary general staff positions, ALL emergency support functions, and the policy group are activated.</b></p> <p>SEOC is FULLY engaged in planning and operational response and recovery to support a local, statewide, regional, or national emergency or disaster.</p> <p>Anticipate numerous requests for support from municipalities, agencies, and organizations. Resource requests may exceed state capabilities; state-to-state mutual aid via EMAC, state-to-state/province mutual aid via International Emergency Management Assistance Compact (IEMAC), and/or federal assistance is anticipated.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ RIEMA staff</li> <li>▪ ESF primary contacts</li> <li>▪ Office of the Governor/Lt. Governor</li> <li>▪ Local emergency management agencies</li> <li>▪ Region I SEOCs</li> <li>▪ RI National Guard Joint Operations Center (JOC)</li> <li>▪ FEMA Region I Regional Coordination Center</li> <li>▪ External Partners</li> <li>▪ Joint Information Center (JIC)</li> </ul>



<b>Level 2 – Enhanced Monitoring /Partial Activation</b>	<p><b>ALL or Select primary general staff positions, selected emergency support functions, and the policy group are activated.</b></p> <p>Enhanced planning and operations is conducted, including protection, mitigation, or possible operational response to support a local, statewide, regional, or national event.</p> <p>Anticipate limited requests from municipalities and state agencies and that state resources and capabilities will not be exhausted. A need for federal or interstate support is not anticipated.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ RIEMA staff</li> <li>▪ RI National Guard JOC</li> <li>▪ ESF primary contacts</li> <li>▪ Office of the Governor/Lt. Governor</li> <li>▪ Local emergency management agencies</li> <li>▪ Region I SEOCs</li> <li>▪ FEMA Region I Regional Coordination Center</li> <li>▪ External Partners</li> </ul>
<b>Level 3 – Steady State/Monitoring</b>	<p><b>Normal Operations, ALL RIEMA Staff</b></p> <p>Virtually monitor and conduct assessments of the current situation in the event of a natural, technological, or manmade event and/or local, regional, and/or national emergency.</p> <p>Any section can be stood up if incident expands, to determine if higher activation level is warranted.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ RIEMA staff</li> <li>▪ ESF primary contacts</li> <li>▪ Office of the Governor/Lt. Governor</li> <li>▪ Local emergency management agencies</li> <li>▪ Region I SEOCs</li> <li>▪ FEMA Region I Regional Coordination Center</li> <li>▪ External Partners</li> </ul>

*\*Any of these levels can involve both in-person and off-site personnel coordinating virtually*

### 3.4.2 SEOC Activation Procedures

SEOC Activation Procedures	
1	Assess the scope, magnitude and extent of the incident. Estimate the amount of manpower requirements needed to fulfill this function.
2	Determine Activation Level of the SEOC. Notify Governor's office of SEOC activation.
3	Mobilize appropriate personnel (Core Team) for the initial activation of the SEOC. Refer to the RIEMA State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) Staffing Matrix.

4	Determine staffing level and assign responsibility to call in SEOC staff. For every emergency, the Activation Level can shift from one level to another as the event escalates or de-escalates. SEOC staffing should also change accordingly. Refer to the RIEMA State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) Staffing Matrix.
5	Write and distribute the SEOC Warning Order, 201 and 205 or SEOC Activation Order, as appropriate.
6	Contact and recall all SEOC staff and ESF partners, as required.
7	Establish "incident" in WebEOC.
8	Activate and test all electric and electronic equipment prior to an event.
9	Establish SEOC security procedures. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All persons entering and exiting the SEOC will be required to check in at the Security Point, located at the facility's main entrance.</li> <li>• All non-resident emergency personnel will be issued a pass (permanent or temporary) to be worn at all times while in the SEOC.</li> </ul>
10	Inspect and ensure adequate emergency food, water, and related supplies (e.g., cots & bedding, etc.). Verify that heat, lights, administrative equipment and forms, are all working and accessible.
11	Conduct communications check on RISCON & EMSTARs.
12	Inspect emergency generator for fuel and automatic start capability prior to an event.
11	Determine "initial" incident goals and objectives.
12	Brief SEOC staff and volunteers upon their arrival.
13	If there is an on-scene Incident Commander, establish contact with IC. Develop a SEOC Action Plan.
14	Establish Battle Rhythm.
15	Establish Situation Unit to begin building first SITREP.
16	Operate within NIMS as dictated by IC.
17	Commence plotting and posting events.
18	Commence message and records log. Provide a uniform reporting format for all situation reporting to ensure the information reported is precise, concise, and clear.
19	Review SEOC staffing pattern to ensure 24-hour operational capability.

20	Brief oncoming shift personnel of all major events and any pending actions.
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## 3.5 National Weather Service Coordination

### 3.5.1 Procedures for Reporting Storm Damage to the Local National Weather Service Office in Real-Time

RIEMA Operations personnel will submit storm damage reports to NWSO Taunton using the most expedient and timeliness method available. The preferred methods are listed in the following priority order:

- 1) NWSO website entitled, *Submit a Storm Report*  
<http://www.weather.gov/box/spotterreportform>
- 2) Email via the BOX Operations, NOAA Service Account: [box.operations@noaa.gov](mailto:box.operations@noaa.gov)
- 3) Phone, dial 508-823-2228

### Report Formats

The NWSO website entitled, *Submit a Storm Report* allows users to submit three basic categories of Storm Report; they are Snow & Ice, Precipitation/Flooding and Severe Weather/Wind. The format are located in *Annex A, Storm Report Formats*.

### 3.5.2 Spotter Activation Criteria (SKYWARN™)

RIEMA does not currently have a State-wide SKYWARN™ Storm Spotter program, however National Weather Service Office (NWSO) Taunton typically activates Southern New England Storm Spotters in support of local, state and regional weather events.

SKYWARN™ Storm Spotters will receive watches and warnings via NOAA Alert Radios, E-mail, Emergency Alert System, or Radio.

SKYWARN™ Storm Spotters who observe any of the following events will immediately communicate these observations to NWSO Taunton during regular business hours at (508) 828-2672.

### How to Report

For your reports to be the most useful, they should be as detailed, concise, accurate and timely as possible. Your severe weather report should address the following questions:

- WHAT did you see?
- WHERE did you see it?
- WHEN did you see it?

Report the location/approximate location of the event. Be sure to distinguish clearly between where you are and where the event is thought to be happening (i.e., "I'm 5 miles north of Bristol. The tornado looks to be about 5 miles to my northwest"). Be sure that reports that are relayed through multiple sources carry the time of the event, NOT the report time. Any other details that are important - How long did it last? Direction of travel? Was there damage?

### What to Report

Weather Event	Report Criteria	What Specifically to Report
<b>Wind Gusts</b>	40 mph or higher	Specify estimate or measurement
<b>Hail</b>	Pea-size or larger	Report the largest size hailstone
<b>Funnel Cloud</b>		Organized, persistent, sustained rotation
<b>Wall Cloud</b>		Organized, persistent, sustained rotation
<b>Flooding</b>		Flooding that impacts roads, homes or businesses. Streams or Rivers are near bankful.
<b>Storm Damage</b>		Damage to structures (roof, siding, windows, etc.) Damage to vehicles (from hail and/or wind) Trees or large limbs down Power/telephone poles and/or lines down Damage to farm equipment, machinery, etc.
<b>Tornado</b>		

### How to Submit a Report

Go to: <http://www.weather.gov/box/spotterreportform>

## Submit a Storm Report

[Weather.gov](#) > [Boston, MA](#) > Submit a Storm Report

**Boston, MA**  
Weather Forecast Office

This page is used to collect observations from SKYWARN Spotters and other volunteers from around Southern New England. These observations are used to aid forecasters in the forecast process during an ongoing event, and to verify warnings after an event. Some reports (not all) will appear in Public Information Statements which are issued during and after significant weather events. Please fill in only the fields that apply.

We ask that you supply your name and a phone number or an email address, in case we need to verify or get more information about the conditions or event that you report. This is optional! [Privacy Policy](#)

**Information about you**

Your Name:

Your Phone Number: (optional)

Email Address: (optional)

Spotter/COOP id:  [Become a SKYWARN Spotter](#)

OR

Affiliation:

**Location of event:**  
[Select location from map](#)

Road/Street Name:

City/Town:

County:

State:

**Date and time of event**

Date:

Local Time:

**Event Information**  
[What to Report](#)

\*\*\* Fill in any fields that apply on any or all tabs \*\*\*

**Snow/Ice**   **Precipitation/Flooding**   **Severe Weather/Wind**   **Upload Images**

Snowfall:  Total amount for THIS storm (inches)

Snowfall rate:  in the past  ☒ Hrs ☐ Mins

Snow depth:  Total amount on ground (inches)

Ice Accumulation:

Current Temperature

☐ Freezing Rain

☐ Sleet

☐ Blowing and drifting snow

☐ Whiteout conditions

☐ Thunder Snow

**Comments/other information**  
\*\*\* (Limit is 3 lines/240 characters)\*\*\*

## 3.6 System Descriptions Overview

### Key Communication Systems

Key Communication Systems	
System Name	Description
Emergency Management State Radio System (EMSTARS)	The Rhode Island Emergency Management State Radio System (EMSTARS) is a Simplex (non-repeated) radio system that links local SEOCs to the Rhode Island State SEOC. This is an encrypted radio system that is located and kept secure in each SEOC. It has been designed to afford communities a redundant mode of secure communications to the state SEOC. EMSTARS is designed to be a base-to-base system only. There are no other talk groups on the VHF system.
RI Statewide Communications Network (RISCON)	Rhode Island Statewide Communications Network is connected through central core numerous radio sites

	separated into 3 zones. RISCON is a state 800 MHz trunked radio system with full time and part time subscribers.
FEMA National Radio System (FNARS)	FEMA National Radio System is a High Frequency Radio system using Automatic Link Establishment (ALE). System connects State SEOCs to FEMA RRCCs, other states and other FEMA Sites.

## Key Notification Systems

Key Notification Systems	
System Name	Description
Microsoft Office 365 (E-Mail)	Microsoft Office 365 is the statewide online cloud based email system.
RI Law Enforcement Telecommunications System (RILETS)	Rhode Island Law Enforcement Telecommunication System connects all Rhode Island Law Enforcement agencies and Rhode Island EMA, FBI, and Homeland Security.
CodeRED (Non-IPAWS)	CodeRED is a notification system used to send voice/texts/emails to those enrolled in a distribution list, or mapped by geo-fencing using 911 directory.

## Key Alert & Warning Systems

Key Alert & Warning Systems	
System Name	Description
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Weather Radio	NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards is a network of radio stations broadcasting continuous weather information directly from a nearby National Weather Service (NWS) office. It is operated by the NWS, an agency of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) within the United States Department of Commerce. NOAA Weather Radio Broadcasts National Weather Service warnings, watches, forecasts and other hazard information 24 hours a day. It also broadcasts alerts of non-weather emergencies such as national security, natural, environmental, and public through the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) Emergency Alert System.
CodeRED (IPAWS)	CodeRED is a notification system used to send voice/texts/emails to those enrolled in a distribution list, or mapped by geo-fencing using 911 directory or IPAWS.
Emergency Alert System (EAS)	The EAS is a national public warning system that requires broadcasters, cable television systems, wireless cable systems, satellite digital audio radio service (SDARS) providers, and direct broadcast satellite (DBS) providers to provide the communications capability to the President to address the American public during a national emergency. The system also may be used by state and local authorities to deliver important emergency information, such as AMBER alerts and weather information targeted to specific areas.
National Warning System (NAWAS) – Federal	NAWAS system used to convey warnings to United States-based Federal, State and local governments, as well as the military and civilian population. NAWAS has proven

	invaluable to local emergency managers responding to or coping with natural disasters.
National Warning System (NAWAS) – State	NAWAS system used to convey warnings to United States-based Federal, State and local governments, as well as the military and civilian population. NAWAS has proven invaluable to local emergency managers responding to or coping with natural disasters.

#### Other Key Critical Support Systems

Other Key Critical Support Systems	
System Name	Description
WebEOC	This is the state's web based emergency information sharing system. Web SEOC connects each municipality as well as each State's Emergency Operations Center's (SEOC) functions on a secured internet connection.
Twitter	Twitter is a free social networking and micro-blogging service that enables its users to send and read messages known as tweets. Tweets are text based posts of up to 140 characters displayed on the author's profile page and delivered to the author's subscribers who are known followers.
Facebook	Facebook is a free social media and social networking service that allows the user to create personal profiles, add other users as friends and exchange messages, pictures, videos and information with their followers.
RIEMA Website	A collection of web pages, that includes multimedia content, agency information, weather & travel updates, RI Floodplain Tool and resources for Business's, Citizens, Emergency Managers and Government.

## 4.0 Functional Roles and Responsibilities

**Emergency Management.** The Emergency Management Agency is responsible for operating and maintaining the SEOC and associated emergency communications systems and equipment. The agency will schedule, maintain and test State communications, warning and notifications systems based on the published plan. Part of this plan is the regular testing and maintenance of emergency power equipment.

## 5.0 Emergency Management Program Elements

The *HWOP* adheres to the *2016 Emergency Management Standards* outlined by the Emergency Management Accreditation Program (EMAP). Specifically, the *HWOP* meets the criteria outlined in *Chapter 4.7, Communications and Warning*.

## 4.7: Communications and Warning

### Overview

An Accredited Emergency Management Program has communications, alert and notification and warning plans that provide for using, maintaining, and augmenting the equipment necessary for efficient preparation for, response to and recovery from emergencies/disasters.

**4.7.1** The Emergency Management Program has a plan to communicate internally and externally with stakeholders (higher, laterally and subordinate) and emergency personnel. System interoperability has been addressed and the plan has been designed for the hazards identified in Standard 4.1.1 and requirements of the Program's potential operating environments. Communications systems support all components of the emergency operations and recovery plans, and includes redundancy to provide alternative means of communications in case of failure in primary system(s).

**4.7.2** The Emergency Management Program has a plan to initiate, receive, and relay notifications to alert key decision makers and emergency personnel. The plan has been designed for the hazards identified in Standard 4.1.1 and requirements of the Program's potential operating environments. Notification systems support all components of the emergency operations and recovery plans, and includes redundancy to provide alternative means of notification in case of failure in primary system(s).

**4.7.3** The Emergency Management Program has a plan to disseminate emergency alerts and warnings to the public potentially impacted by an actual or impending emergency and to communicate with the population within its jurisdiction. The plan has been designed for the hazards identified in Standard 4.1.1 and requirements of the Program's potential operating environments. Alert and warning systems include redundancy to provide alternative means of warning in case of failure in primary system(s). The plan addresses dissemination of alerts and warnings to vulnerable populations as defined by the Emergency Management Program.

**4.7.5** The Emergency Management Program has procedures for the operation of the communications, notification, and alert and warning systems. The procedures address the hazards identified in Standard 4.1.1 and requirements of the Program's potential operating environments and clearly delineate any decision-making processes or pre-determined criteria.

EMAP Standard	Standard Component	Plan Section(s)	Page #
<b>4.7.1</b>	The Emergency Management Program has a plan to communicate internally and externally with stakeholders (higher, laterally and subordinate) and emergency personnel. System interoperability has been addressed and the plan has been designed	3.2 3.3 3.3.1 3.3.2	pp. 8-10



EMAP Standard	Standard Component	Plan Section(s)	Page #
	for the hazards identified in Standard 4.1.1 and requirements of the Program's potential operating environments. Communications systems support all components of the emergency operations and recovery plans, and includes redundancy to provide alternative means of communications in case of failure in primary system(s).		
<b>4.7.2</b>	The Emergency Management Program has a plan to initiate, receive, and relay notifications to alert key decision makers and emergency personnel. The plan has been designed for the hazards identified in Standard 4.1.1 and requirements of the Program's potential operating environments. Notification systems support all components of the emergency operations and recovery plans, and includes redundancy to provide alternative means of notification in case of failure in primary system(s).	3.3.2	pp. 9-10
<b>4.7.3</b>	The Emergency Management Program has a plan to disseminate emergency alerts and warnings to the public potentially impacted by an actual or impending emergency and to communicate with the population within its jurisdiction. The plan has been designed for the hazards identified in Standard 4.1.1 and requirements of the Program's potential operating environments. Alert and warning systems include redundancy to provide alternative means of warning in case of failure in primary system(s). The plan addresses dissemination of alerts and warnings to vulnerable populations as defined by the Emergency Management Program.	3.3.3 3.3.4	pp. 11-12
<b>4.7.5</b>	The Emergency Management Program has procedures for the operation of the communications, notification, and alert and warning systems. The procedures address the hazards identified in Standard 4.1.1 and requirements of the Program's potential operating environments and clearly delineate any decision-making processes or pre-determined criteria.	3.2	pp. 9-12

## 6.0 Plan Maintenance

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### 6.1 Plan Maintenance

All plans are maintained in accordance with the *Plans Standardization and Maintenance Policy*.

### 6.2 Training and Exercise

The State's Emergency Management *Training and Exercise Program* (TEP) aims to test, assess and improve the State's preparedness and resiliency. By assessing preparedness against a set of common preparedness priorities, the TEP improves preparedness and resiliency and affects policy, priorities and fiscal decisions. RIEMA will train to and exercise elements of this policy alone or as part of a larger exercise. As part of the planning review and revision process, all corrective actions from training and exercise events will be collected and analyzed. This corrective action process allows RIEMA staff to identify, address, and correct problems within a plan. This process may involve the revision of planning assumptions, operational concepts, organizational tasks, or instruction based on information from areas where deficiencies may exist such as exercises, AARs, lessons learned, and audits.

## 7.0 Administration

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**Plan Manager:** The Statewide Interoperability Coordinator (SWIC) is designated to serve as the State's single point of contact for interoperable communications and implements the Statewide Communication Interoperability Plan as well as all communication plans, policies and procedures.

**Supporting Plans:** This plan is supported by the following complimentary plans:

- 1) *State of Rhode Island Communications Smart Book (CSB) and Communications Support System Annex (CSSA)*. The purpose of this plan and annex is to provide detailed information and technical data on RIEMA communications, alert and notification and warning systems and other critical equipment necessary for efficient preparation for, response to and recovery from emergencies/disasters.
- 2) *State of Rhode Island Statewide Emergency Notification Policy (SENP)*. The *SENP* provides a framework for prescribing the process for the Governor, gubernatorial staff and department heads within the State of Rhode Island for sharing, analyzing, and acting on information in response to both natural and man-made emergencies.
- 3) *State of Rhode Island Emergency Alert System (EAS) Plan (DRAFT)*. The *EAS Plan* outlines the organization and implementation of the State of Rhode Island

Emergency Alert System and provides guidelines for broadcasters, cable operators and all other EAS participants to determine mandated and optional monitoring assignments, EAS codes to be used, guidance for message originators and other additional elements of the EAS unique to the state.

- 4) *Statewide Communications Interoperability Plan (SCIP)*. The purpose of the Rhode Island SCIP is to provide strategic direction and alignment for responsible for interoperable communications at the State, regional, Tribal and local levels.

## 8.0 Command & Control

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The following table lists those positions that have the authority to draft and launch emergency alerts, warning, and notifications during a major emergency.

Users Authorized to <b>Launch</b> Emergency Alerts, Warning, Notifications and Other Critical Support Systems		
Position	System	Authorization
Director	All	Yes
Administrative Executive Officer	All	Yes
Emergency Management Operations Section Chief	All & Amber Alert	Yes
RIEMA Duty Officer (RDO)	All	Yes
Emergency Management Information Technology Services & Warning Officer Technician	All	Yes
RISP Amber Alert Officer	Amber Alert	Yes
"All" consists of the following major systems:	EAS, CodeRED/IPAWS, RISCO, EMSTARS and NAWAS	

## 9.0 References

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- The Homeland Security Act of 2002 (Title 6 United States Code § 101 *et. seq.*);
- The Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act (Title 42 United States Code § 2000ee, 50 United States Code § 403-1 *et. seq.*, § 403-3 *et. seq.*, § 4040 *et. seq.*);
- The Fiscal Year 2007 Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act;
- Security and Accountability for Every Port Act;
- Implementing the Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act;
- Executive Order 13407, Public Alert and Warning System;
- National Security Presidential Directive- 51/Homeland Security Policy Directive-20, National Continuity Policy;

- Presidential Policy Directive–8, National Preparedness;
- Executive Order 13618, Assignment of National Security and Emergency Preparedness Communications Functions; and
- Presidential Policy Directive–21, Critical Infrastructure Security and Resilience.

## 10.0 Acronyms and Glossary

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### 10.1 Acronyms

Acronym	Definition
<b>CAP</b>	Common Alerting Protocol
<b>CMAS</b>	Commercial Mobile Alert System
<b>COG</b>	Continuity of Government
<b>COOP</b>	Continuity of Operations
<b>DEC</b>	Disaster Emergency Communications
<b>DHS</b>	Department of Homeland Security
<b>SEOC</b>	Emergency Operations Center
<b>ESF</b>	Emergency Support Function
<b>FEMA</b>	Federal Emergency Management Agency
<b>GETS</b>	Government Emergency Telecommunications Service
<b>ICC</b>	Interoperable Communications Committee
<b>IPAWS</b>	Integrated Public Alert and Warning System
<b>IT</b>	Information Technology
<b>LMR</b>	Land Mobile Radio
<b>NIFOG</b>	National Interoperability Field Operations Guide
<b>NIMS</b>	National Incident Management System
<b>NRF</b>	National Response Framework
<b>NRP</b>	National Response Plan
<b>OEC</b>	Office of Emergency Communications
<b>PSAP</b>	Public Safety Answering Point
<b>PTT</b>	Push-to-Talk
<b>SCIP</b>	Statewide Communication Interoperability Plan
<b>SME</b>	Subject Matter Expert
<b>SOP</b>	Standard Operating Procedure
<b>SWIC</b>	Statewide Interoperability Coordinator
<b>TICP</b>	Tactical Interoperable Communications Plan
<b>WEA</b>	Wireless Emergency Alerts
<b>WPS</b>	Wireless Priority Service

## 10.2 Glossary

**Common Alerting Protocol:** The Common Alerting Protocol is a digital format for exchanging emergency alerts that allows a consistent alert message to be disseminated simultaneously over many different communications systems.

**Continuity of Communications:** Ability of emergency response agencies to maintain communications capabilities when primary infrastructure is damaged or destroyed.

**Dispatch Center:** Agency or interagency dispatch centers, 9-1-1 call centers (e.g., public safety answering points), emergency control or command dispatch centers, or any naming convention given to the facility and staff that handles emergency calls from the public and communication with emergency management/response personnel.

**Emergency Alert System:** The Emergency Alert System (EAS) is a national public warning system that requires TV and radio broadcasters, cable television systems, wireless cable systems, satellite digital audio radio service (SDARS) providers, direct broadcast satellite (DBS) service providers, and wireline video service providers to offer to the President the communications capability to address the American public during a national emergency. The system also may be used by state and local authorities to deliver important emergency information such as AMBER (missing children) alerts and emergency weather information targeted to a specific area.

**Emergency Communications:** Means and methods for transmitting and receiving information necessary for successful incident management, when needed and as authorized.

**Emergency Notification:** The purpose of the notification system is to notify residents and businesses about natural or man-made disasters, missing persons, public health issues and any other situation where timely notification is likely to be essential and useful.

**Emergency Public Information:** Information which is disseminated primarily in anticipation of an emergency or at the actual time of an emergency and in addition to providing information as such, frequently directs actions, instructs, and transmits direct orders.

**Emergency Support Functions:** Used by the Federal Government and many State governments as the primary mechanism at the operational level to organize and provide assistance. Emergency Support Functions align categories of resources and provide strategic objectives for their use. Emergency Support Functions utilize standardized resource management concepts such as typing, inventorying, and tracking to facilitate the dispatch, deployment, and recovery of resources before, during, and after an incident.

**Flood Watch:** High flow or overflow of water from a river is possible in the given time period. It can also apply to heavy runoff or drainage of water into low-lying areas. These watches are generally issued for flooding that is expected to occur at least 6 hours after

heavy rains have ended.

**Flood Warning:** Flooding conditions are actually occurring or are imminent in the warning area.

**Flash Flood Watch:** Flash flooding is possible in or close to the watch area. Flash Flood Watches are generally issued for flooding that is expected to occur within 6 hours after heavy rains have ended.

**Flash Flood Warning:** Flash flooding is actually occurring or imminent in the warning area. It can be issued as a result of torrential rains, a dam failure, or ice jam.

**Government Emergency Telecommunications Service:** Service that provides national security and emergency preparedness personnel priority access and prioritized processing in the local and long distance segments of the Public Switched Telephone Network, greatly increasing the probability of call completion. Government Emergency Telecommunications Service is intended to be used in an emergency or crisis situation when the Public Switched Telephone Network is congested and the probability of completing a normal call is reduced.

**Hurricane Watch:** Hurricane conditions (sustained winds greater than 73 mph) are possible in the watch area within 36 hours.

**Hurricane Warning:** Hurricane conditions are expected in the warning area in 24 hours or less.

**Integrated Public Alert and Warning System:** The Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS) is a modernization and integration of the nation's alert and warning infrastructure and will save time when time matters most, protecting life and property. Federal, State, territorial, tribal, and local alerting authorities can use IPAWS and integrate local systems that use Common Alerting Protocol (CAP) standards with the IPAWS infrastructure. IPAWS provides public safety officials with an effective way to alert and warn the public about serious emergencies using the Emergency Alert System (EAS), Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA), the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Weather Radio, and other public alerting systems from a single interface.

**Interoperability:** Ability of emergency responders to communicate among jurisdictions, disciplines, frequency bands, and levels of government as needed and as authorized. System operability is required for system interoperability.

**Land Mobile Radio Systems:** Terrestrially-based wireless narrowband communications systems commonly used by Federal, State, local, tribal, and territorial emergency responders, public works companies, and even the military to support voice and low-speed data communications.

**Public Safety Answering Point:** A facility that has been designated to receive 9-1-1 calls and route them to emergency services personnel. A Public Safety Answering Point may act

as a dispatch center. Public Safety Answering Point is often used with the term Public Safety Communications Center. (Source: *Communications Act of 1934*, as amended)

**Redundancy:** Additional or alternate systems, sub-systems, assets, or processes that maintain a degree of overall functionality in case of loss or failure of another system, sub-system, asset, or process.

**Statewide Communication Interoperability Plan:** Stakeholder-driven, multi-jurisdictional, and multi-disciplinary statewide plans that outline and define the current and future vision for communications interoperability within the State or territory. The Statewide Communications Interoperability Plan is a critical strategic planning tool to help States prioritize resources, establish and strengthen governance, identify future technology investments, and address interoperability gaps.

**Statewide Interoperability Coordinator:** Serves as the State's single point of contact for interoperable communications and implements the Statewide Communication Interoperability Plan.

**Severe Thunderstorm Watch:** Conditions are conducive to the development of severe thunderstorms in and close to the watch area.

**Severe Thunderstorm Warning:** A severe thunderstorm has actually been observed by spotters or indicated on radar, and is occurring or imminent in the warning area.

**Tactical Interoperable Communications Plan.** A plan providing rapid provision of on-scene, incident based mission critical voice communications among all first responder agencies (e.g., emergency medical services, fire, and law enforcement), as appropriate for the incident, and in support of an incident command system as defined in the *National Incident Management System*.

**Tornado Watch:** Conditions are conducive to the development of tornadoes in and close to the watch area.

**Tornado Warning:** A tornado has actually been sighted by spotters or indicated on radar and is occurring or imminent in the warning area.

**Tropical Storm Watch:** Tropical storm conditions with sustained winds from 39 to 73 mph are possible in the watch area within the next 36 hours.

**Tropical Storm Warning:** Tropical storm conditions are expected in the warning area within the next 24 hours.

**Warning:** The term 'warning' refers to any text, voice, video, or other information provided by an authorized official to provide direction to the public and/or private sector about an ongoing emergency situation that requires immediate actions to protect life, health, and

property. A warning requires immediate actions to protect life, health, and property and is typically issued when there is a confirmed threat posing an immediate danger to the public.

**Whole Community.** Per the *National Preparedness Goal*, the term whole community applies to the focus on enabling the participation in national preparedness activities of a wider range of players from the private and nonprofit sectors, including nongovernmental organizations and the general public, in conjunction with the participation of Federal, State, local, tribal, and territorial governmental partners in order to foster better coordination and working relationships.

**Wireless Emergency Alerts:** The FCC, in conjunction with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the wireless industry, established a public safety system that allows customers who own certain wireless phone models and other enabled mobile devices to receive geographically-targeted, text-like messages alerting them of imminent threats to safety in their area. WEA (formerly known as the Commercial Mobile Alert System (CMAS) or Personal Localized Alerting Network (PLAN) utilizes technology that ensures that emergency alerts will not get stuck in highly congested areas, which can happen with standard mobile voice and texting services. WEA was established pursuant to the Warning, Alert and Response Network (WARN). WEA complements the existing Emergency Alert System (EAS) which is implemented by the FCC and FEMA at the federal level through broadcasters and other media service providers. WEA and the EAS are part of FEMA's Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS).

**Wireless Priority Service.** Service offering that provides national security and emergency preparedness personnel with priority access and prioritized processing in all nationwide and several regional cellular networks, greatly increasing the probability of call completion. It is intended to be used in an emergency or crisis situation when cellular networks are congested and the probability of completing a normal cellular call is reduced.



## **ANNEXES**

## Annex A: Storm Report Formats

### Snow/Ice

Snow/Ice	Precipitation/Flooding	Severe Weather/Wind	Upload Images
Snowfall: <input type="text"/> Total amount for THIS storm (inches)		<input type="checkbox"/> Freezing Rain	
Snowfall rate: <input type="text"/> in the past <input type="text"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/> Hrs <input type="radio"/> Mins		<input type="checkbox"/> Sleet	
Snow depth: <input type="text"/> Total amount on ground (inches)		<input type="checkbox"/> Blowing and drifting snow	
Ice Accumulation: <input type="text"/>		<input type="checkbox"/> Whiteout conditions	
Current Temperature <input type="text"/>		<input type="checkbox"/> Thunder Snow	

### Precipitation/Flooding

Snow/Ice	Precipitation/Flooding	Severe Weather/Wind	Upload Images
Precipitation: <input type="text"/> Total amount for THIS storm (inches)		<input type="checkbox"/> Flooded road - water depth greater than 6"	
Precipitation rate: <input type="text"/> in the past <input type="text"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/> Hrs <input type="radio"/> Mins		<input type="checkbox"/> Flooded road - water depth less than 6"	
Name of river, stream or creek in flood: <input type="text"/>		<input type="checkbox"/> Pavement washed away	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Flooded basements	
		<input type="checkbox"/> First floor flooded in houses/businesses	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Small River/Stream/Creek over its bank	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Large river over its bank	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Flooding due to Ice Jam	

### Severe Weather/Wind

Snow/Ice	Precipitation/Flooding	Severe Weather/Wind	Upload Images
Event type: <input checked="" type="radio"/> Non-Thunderstorm <input type="radio"/> Thunderstorm			
Sustained Wind Speed: <input type="text"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/> MPH <input type="radio"/> KTS		<input type="checkbox"/> Downed tree(s)	
Wind Gust: <input type="text"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/> MPH <input type="radio"/> KTS		<input type="checkbox"/> Downed tree limb(s)	
Wind was: <input checked="" type="radio"/> Measured <input type="radio"/> Estimated		<input type="checkbox"/> Downed Utility pole(s)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Downed Utility line(s)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Wind damage	
<b>Hail/Tornado</b>		<b>What got damaged/hit?</b> <input type="text"/>	
Hail size <input type="text"/>		<b>Diameter of down tree/limb(s)</b>	
Tornado <input type="text"/>		<input type="text"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/> Inches <input type="radio"/> Foot/Feet	